

Minutes of DAAC Meeting

Attendance

DAAC members present were: Seren Derin, Chair; Irene Barrelet, Clerk; Jim MacRostie; and Dana Goddard

Others present were Gerry Weiss, Select Board representative; Tom Davies, representative from the Amherst Inn Co.; members of the public Joan Swift and Tory Dixon; and Nathaniel Malloy, DAAC staff liaison.

Absent: Joe Tringali, Vice-chair.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Derin called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

MINUTES

Minutes from the December 15, 2009 and January 12, 2010 meetings were reviewed. No corrections were found. Ms. Barrelet made a motion to accept the minutes, Mr. MacRostie seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to accept the December 2009 and January 2010 minutes as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Amherst Inn Co.—Lord Jeffery Inn Renovations

Tom Davies, representative of the Lord Jeffery Inn Company, returned to present more information for the renovations of the Lord Jeffery Inn, and to clarify the number of rooms that could be made visitable. Mr. Davies reported that offset hinges cannot be used on the existing doorways because of a lack of clearance in most rooms and other technical difficulties. He emphasized that ten (10) rooms would have new doors with a full 32 inch clearance (as required by the AAB) and that it may be possible to widen the doorways on an additional five rooms. The doorway clearance on the existing doors ranges from 29.5” to 30.0”, and is navigable by most types of wheelchairs. Mr. Davies also explained that the tree bumpouts on Spring Street are seven feet wide and do not impede on the width of sidewalk.

Ms. Barrelet and Ms. Swift asked if the new lighting in the restaurant, hallways and rooms would be bright enough for the visually impaired. Mr. Davies assured them that the new lighting meets all necessary codes.

Ms. Derin noted that the Lord Jeffery Inn Company has made a reasonable attempt to make the entire property more accessible while retaining the historic character of the building, and that it is sufficient to have 10 visitable rooms in addition to the three fully accessible rooms.

Ms. Barrelet motioned that the Committee vote to support the variance application without conditions. Mr. MacRostie seconded and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to support the variance application.

Master Plan and Visitability

The Committee agreed to table the discussion when it could be addressed more thoroughly at a future meeting.

Other

The committee noted that when Mr. Weiss is no longer a member of the Select Board, there will no longer be a Select Board representative to the DAAC.

The Committee discussed accessibility issues at the Middle School auditorium, in particular, the steep aisles. The aisles have been carpeted to improve traction and other measures were discussed to make the aisles easier to navigate. It was suggested that school and town functions that typically occur at the Middle School could be relocated to the High School auditorium.

OLD BUSINESS

Jones Library Parking

The Committee is waiting to schedule a site visit to the library, and also noted that there is inadequate HP parking at the Munson Memorial Library in South Amherst.

Other

None.

Next Meeting(s)

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday April 6, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday May 11, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday June 8, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Nathaniel Malloy, staff liaison